

## House Resolution No. 1425

**Whereas**, it is with tremendous respect that the members of the Missouri House of Representatives pause in their diverse legislative endeavors in order to acknowledge the lifelong accomplishments of a stellar Show-Me State citizen who has devoted himself to spiritual pursuits through a wide variety of humanity-oriented venues; and

**Whereas**, Father Joseph Marion Kohler has served as executive director of Dismas House, a halfway house for men who are being released from prison, since August 1, 1989, when he was appointed to that weighty position by Archbishop May of St. Louis; and

**Whereas**, on April 15, 2003, Father Joseph Kohler will bring his esteemed leadership endeavors at Dismas House to a close with the arrival of his seventy-fourth birthday and retirement; and

**Whereas**, the third child of Cecilia Ryan and Eugene Jacob Kohler, Father Joseph Kohler was born on April 15, 1929, into a family which would grow to provide him with eight siblings and an inestimable amount of love and support; and

**Whereas**, Father Joseph Kohler entered the Roman Catholic priesthood on April 3, 1954, when he was officially ordained; earned a Master of Divinity degree on May 20, 1978; served many St. Louis parishes; and experienced a twenty-four-year-long, productive relationship with the Missouri Air National Guard which would promote him to the rank of Colonel as a chaplain; and

**Whereas**, recipient of a Congressional Legion of Merit medal, Father Joseph Kohler pastored Holy Guardian Angels Church from 1965 to 1969; founded Civic Employment Corporation, a not-for-profit agency which finds jobs for the hardcore unemployed and for which he served as executive director; and enjoyed such well-deserved accolades as Chamber of Commerce Man of the Year in 1968:

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, join unanimously to express this legislative body's most heartfelt commendation of the life and work of Father Joseph Kohler during his nearly half century of service as a Roman Catholic priest and to convey to him our congratulations and best wishes as he partakes of the special opportunities and pleasures traditionally associated with the golden years of retirement; and

**Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution in honor of the Seventy-fourth Birthday and well-deserved retirement of Father Joseph M. Kohler as executive director of Dismas House in St. Louis, Missouri.

Offered by Speaker Catherine L. Hanaway  
District No. 87

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, First Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 1425, adopted April 7, 2003.

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Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker